

THE WAY OF CLEANSING VICTORY OVER THE PRACTICE OF SIN

Message Five

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

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Romans 8:1-14

1. We need to understand and believe that victory over the practice of sin is possible and expected.
2. We are not **sinless**, but we are not to be **sinful**.
 - a. Romans 8:3-4 calls for a holy walk even though the law of sin is still at work in our bodies.
 - b. Paul wrote, "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh." Galatians 5:16
3. I John 3:1-10 states several important truths.
 - a. All who hope in Jesus will purify themselves just as He is pure.
 - b. Those who practice sin are of the devil and those who practice righteousness are of God.
 - c. Those who are born of God cannot practice sin because God's seed abides in them.
NOTE: The blood of Christ purges us from the guilt of sin, while the indwelling, resurrected Christ delivers us from the practice of sin.
4. We are obligated to put to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit. Romans 8:12-13
5. Victory over the practice of sin requires daily discipline in several areas.

I. Daily cleansing.

A. Jesus washed His disciple's feet and used the incident to illustrate the need for cleansing from daily defilement. John 13:5-11

Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. 6 So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter." 8 Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." 9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." 10 Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." 11 For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean."

b. Daily defilement is evident to those who walk in the light, and we experience cleansing when we confess and renounce sin. 1 John 1:5-9

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

II. Daily claiming.

A. God's promises were given to us so that we might become partakers of the divine nature. 2 Peter 1:2-4

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

B. Paul spoke of God's promises and what is expected from us because of those promises. 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? 16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. 17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE EPARATE," says the Lord."AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. 18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty. 7:1 **Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**

C. All of God's promises are ours in Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:20

For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

III. Daily denial. Romans 6:12-13

A. Sin uses the eyes.

1. In 1 John 2:16 we read, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and **the lust of the eyes** and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but from the world."

2. Job said, "I have made a covenant with my eyes."

3. The Psalmist wrote, "I will set no worthless thing before my eyes." Psalm 101:3

4. **"There is a clear border line between things which thrust themselves upon our vision, and the things which we choose to look upon...It is the second look that counts. The first may be, and usually is, accidental or incidental. But the second look has in it the sin of choice."** James McConkey

a. Achan. Joshua 7:20-21

So Achan answered Joshua and said, "Truly, I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel, and this is what I did: 21 when I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, then I coveted them and took them; and behold, they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it."

b. David and Bathsheba. 2 Samuel 11:1-5

Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem. 2 Now when evening came **David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance.** 3 So David sent and

inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" 4 David sent messengers and took her, and when she came to him, he lay with her; and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house. 5 The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said, "I am pregnant."

5. James McConkey wrote these prophetic words in 1928.

"The appeal of the eye is the deadliest and easiest route to the soul's undoing, and the nation will someday, when it is too late, awaken to the fact that the modern movies have wrought the moral wreck and ruin of its youth."

NOTE: Can you imagine what this man of God would think of what is being watched by Christian adults and youths in our day?

6. Jesus said, "The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!" Matthew 6:22-23

B. Sin uses the mind. Romans 8:5-8

1. The mind is the vestibule of the heart.

2. Here the accuser of the brethren does his disruptive work.

3. Even in the hour of prayer sin will endeavor to pollute and occupy the mind if possible.

4. Martin Luther said, "We are not responsible for the birds flying about our heads, but we are responsible for letting them build their nest in our hair."

5. Two passages come to mind.

a. Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

NOTE: How can we renew our mind when we are using our eyes and ears to pollute it?

b. Philippians 4:8-9

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, **dwell on these things.** 9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

C. Sin uses the lips.

1. "For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart." Matthew 12:34

2. Ephesians 4:29-5:5

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. 30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. 3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; 4 and **there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse**

jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

3. James 3:1-12 (8-12)

Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. 3 Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. 4 Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. 5 **So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things.** See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell. 7 For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. 8 But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; 10 from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. 11 Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.

NOTE: No man can tame the tongue, but God can through His indwelling Spirit.

APPLICATION

1. You have:
 - a. Been delivered from the guilt of sin.
 - b. Been set free from the dominion of sin.
 - c. Been indwelt and empowered by the Holy Spirit-the Spirit of God's Son.
 - d. Consecrated yourself to God.
2. Now claim victory over the practice of sin.
 - a. Confess as sin every act of disobedience and everything that is in your life that is contrary to the Word of God and the nature of Christ.
 - b. Claim God's promises and count on God's power.
 - c. Deny sin the use of your members and faculties.